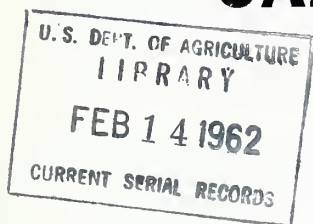


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SCIENTIFIC CAREERS IN



PLANT QUARANTINE ENFORCEMENT



**Miscellaneous Publication No. 853
Agricultural Research Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture**

SCIENTIFIC CAREERS in Plant Quarantine Enforcement

Are you qualified to work as an inspector in a program aimed at preventing entry into the United States of plant pests that would be injurious to our agriculture? Are you taking college courses that will qualify you?

If so, you may be interested in employment in the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In

ARS, the Plant Quarantine Division uses science-trained college graduates as inspectors and specialists.

This leaflet describes the regulatory programs that are administered by the Plant Quarantine Division. It also lists salaries and job benefits, summarizes qualification requirements, and tells how to get additional information.



N-16820

Recruits receive intensive training in plant quarantine biology.



N-22953

Plant Quarantine officers protect American agriculture from foreign plant pests.

Program activities include:

● **QUARANTINE ENFORCEMENT FOR IMPORTS.** Inspection of vessels, vehicles, and aircraft from abroad. Inspection of foreign plants and materials at principal ports of entry to detect presence of pests. Regulation of movement of plants and materials from territories and possessions of the United States to the mainland.

● **QUARANTINE ENFORCEMENT FOR EXPORTS.** Inspection and certification of domestic plants and plant materials for shipment to foreign countries.

● **QUARANTINE ENFORCEMENT FOR DOMESTIC COMMERCE.** Inspection, treatment and certification of plants and materials for interstate movement.

Nature of the work

Plant Quarantine Inspectors enforce quarantine regulations by inspecting incoming carriers, plants and materials, cargoes, baggage, and mail at principal ports of entry for plant pests and unauthorized materials. They inspect and certify American-grown plant materials for export to meet the sanitary import requirements of the countries of destination. They inspect shipments of agricultural products moving interstate when regulated by Federal domestic quarantine.

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Plant Quarantine Inspector positions are in the Federal competitive civil service. Applicants compete for these jobs through the Federal Service Entrance Examination and must pass a written test.

You may obtain an announcement of this examination from your college placement officer or from the Personnel Division, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C. The announcement contains detailed information about employment requirements. If you are interested, apply to take the written test as soon as possible. After passing the test, you will be sent an application blank. Complete it and return it promptly.



N-12992

Quarantine officers inspect baggage for unauthorized plant materials.

Qualification Requirements and Salaries

For Grade GS-5 . . . \$4,345 per year:

A. Completion of a 4-year course leading to a bachelor's degree in an accredited college or university with major study in one of the biological sciences which included at least 20 semester hours in one or in any combination of the following: Entomology, botany, plant pathology, nematology, mycology, invertebrate zoology, horticulture, or closely related subjects; or

B. Course-work totaling 30 semester hours in biology and related natural and physical sciences including the 20 hours of specified course-work, plus appropriate experience and education which, when combined with the required courses, will total 4 years of education and experience and give a technical knowledge comparable to that which would have been acquired through successful completion of a 4-year college course.

For Grade GS-7 . . . \$5,355 per year:

Applicants who meet the qualifications for grade GS-5 may also be rated for grade GS-7 if they can show that they meet one of the following *additional* requirements.

A. One full year of graduate study (30 semester hours) or all the requirements for a master's degree, with major study in an appropriate field where the study is related to plant quarantine inspection work; or

B. One year of appropriate experience; or

C. Attain a sufficiently high score in a civil service written test and (a) possess a "B" average or (b) rank in the upper 25 percent of your class.

Training

All new professional employees are appointed at New York, N.Y., where they are given a 6-month training course. Upon successful

Work locations: The Plant Quarantine Division has its headquarters in Washington, D.C. It employs inspectors at 60 field locations at principal ports of entry, at several inland traffic centers, and in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

PLANT QUARANTINE DIVISION



completion of the training, inspectors are assigned to a permanent duty station at \$5,355 a year. Training continues at the permanent duty station until the new inspector is capable of assuming the full responsibilities of the assignment. He is then promoted to \$6,435 a year.

Arrangements can be made with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Graduate School to receive 10 semester hours of graduate credit upon successful completion of the training.

Job Benefits

In-service training.

Advancement based on merit (possibility of promotion from entrance salary of \$4,345 to \$6,435 within approximately the first 18 months of employment).

Regular salary increases.

5-day, 40-hour workweek (overtime is paid for any additional work required).

Liberal vacation and sick leave with pay.

Excellent retirement system.

Low-cost life and health insurance.

INSPECTORS UTILIZED are those trained in:

Entomology

Botany

Plant Pathology

Nematology

Horticulture

Mycology

Invertebrate Zoology



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Growth Through Agricultural Progress

